# Harmer stars as South Africa stun India in low-scoring Test

KOLKATA: Spinner Simon Harmer claimed a match haul of eight wickets to lead South Africa to a thrilling 30-run win over India inside three days of a low-scoring opening Test on Sunday.

India, without captain and leading batsman Shubman Gill who was ruled out because of a neck injury he suffered on Saturday, faltered in their chase of 124 to be bowled out for 93 in Kolkata.

Harmer, who had figures of 4-30 in the first Indian innings, struck key blows in the second session including getting Rishabh Pant caught and bowled for two to dent the opposition chase.

Left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj struck twice in two balls to pack off India and trigger wild celebrations in the South African camp with the reigning world Test champions taking a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma hit a defiant 55 not out to lift his team's second innings total to 153 after they slipped to 91-7 on day two.

"Very exciting, you want to be a part of those types of games and obviously be on the right side of the result," Bavuma said.

"I think we tried to hold our ground as much as we could. We knew it was going to be tough with the bat, it was tough for us, but we needed to exploit what was there."

South Africa, who beat Australia in the World Test Championship final in June at Lord's, have lived up to their winners' tag with a recent 1-1 draw in Pakistan in similar conditions and now beating India at their own game of spin.

Washington Sundar attempted to anchor India's chase but fell to Aiden Markram's off-spin for 31.

Left-hand batter Axar Patel gave the crowd some cheer with his two sixes off Maharaj before the bowler had his revenge to send the batter caught out for 26 off 17 balls.

Left-arm quick Marco Jansen ripped out the Indian openers before lunch with the hosts effectively 10-3 in the absence of Gill, who is in hospital and "under observation", at the break and Harmer soon took charge and returned figures of 4-21.

**BAVUMA-BOSCH FRUSTRATE HOSTS**

Wickets fell in clusters as Harmer, who was named player of the match, kept up the charge to send back Dhruv Jurel, Pant and Ravindra Jadeja in quick succession.

"A game like this, you can't dwell into it too much," said vice-captain Pant, who took charge of the team after Gill was forced out. "We should've been able to chase this score. The pressure built on us in the second innings and we weren't able to capitalise."

Earlier Bavuma played a defiant knock to keep South Africa in the hunt after they resumed on 93-7 on a tough pitch with inconsistent bounce.

He started the day on 29 and played with grit to complete the first half-century of a low-scoring contest.

Bavuma's 44-run eighth-wicket stand with overnight partner Corbin Bosch frustrated the Indian bowlers until pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah broke through.

Bumrah bowled Bosch for 25 before Bavuma reached his fifty in 122 balls, raising his bat to an applauding dressing room.

Fast bowler Mohammed Siraj shattered Harmer's stumps for seven and removed last man Maharaj for a duck in the space of four balls as Bavuma ran out of partners.

South Africa fought back on day two after being all out for 159 on Friday after winning the toss and electing to bat.

They dismissed India for 189 on Saturday to keep the deficit to 30 before again faltering in their batting.

The hosts will now look to bounce back when the second Test kicks off on Saturday in Guwahati. —AFP

**Scoreboard**

**SOUTH AFRICA** (1st Innings) 159 (A. Markram 31; J. Bumrah 5-27)
**INDIA** (1st Innings) 189 (K. L. Rahul 39; S. Harmer 4-30, M. Jansen 3-35)
**SOUTH AFRICA** (2nd Innings, overnight 93-7):
R. Rickelton lbw Yadav ... 11
A. Markram c Jurel b Jadeja ... 4
W. Mulder c Pant b Jadeja ... 11
T. Bavuma not out ... 55
T. de Zorzi c Jurel b Jadeja ... 2
T. Stubbs b Jadeja ... 5
K. Verreynne b Patel ... 9
M. Jansen c Rahul b Yadav ... 13
C. Bosch b Bumrah ... 25
S. Harmer b Siraj ... 7
K. Maharaj lbw Siraj ... 0
**EXTRAS** (LB-11) ... 11
**TOTAL** (all out, 54 overs) ... 153
**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-18 (Rickelton), 2-25 (Markram), 3-38 (Mulder), 4-40 (de Zorzi), 5-60 (Stubbs), 6-75 (Verreynne), 7-91 (Jansen), 8-135 (Bosch), 9-153 (Harmer)
**BOWLING:** Bumrah 10-2-24-1, Patel 14-0-36-1, Yadav 8-1-30-2, Jadeja 20-3-50-4, Siraj 2-0-2-2
**INDIA** (2nd Innings):
Y. Jaiswal c Verreynne b Jansen .. 0
K. L. Rahul c Verreynne b Jansen 1
W. Sundar c Harmer b Markram. 31
D. Jurel c Bosch b Harmer ... 13
R. Pant c&b Harmer ... 2
R. Jadeja lbw Harmer ... 18
A. Patel c Bavuma b Maharaj ... 26
K. Yadav lbw Harmer ... 1
J. Bumrah not out ... 0
M. Siraj c Markram b Maharaj ... 0
S. Gill absent hurt
**EXTRAS** (LB-1) ... 1
**TOTAL** (all out, 35 overs) ... 93
**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-0 (Jaiswal), 2-1 (Rahul), 3-33 (Jurel), 4-38 (Pant), 5-64 (Jadeja), 6-72 (Sundar), 7-77 (Yadav), 8-93 (Patel), 9-93 (Siraj)
**BOWLING:** Jansen 7-3-15-2, Harmer 14-4-21-4, Maharaj 9-1-37-2, Bosch 2-0-14-0, Markram 3-0-5-1
**RESULT:** South Africa won by 30 runs.
**PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH:** Simon Harmer

SOUTH African players celebrate winning the first Test against India at Eden Gardens on Sunday.—AFP

PAKISTAN players celebrate with the series trophy after beating Sri Lanka in the third One-day International at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.—Tanveer Shahzad/White Star

# Pakistan complete ODI clean sweep with six-wicket win over Sri Lanka

By Kashif Abbasi

RAWALPINDI: A brilliant bowling show from Pakistan and a laboured chase later saw the hosts beat Sri Lanka by six wickets to complete a 3-0 series sweep over the visitors in the third and final One-day International here at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Pacers Haris Rauf and Mohammad Wasim Junior (3-47) and left-arm wrist spinner Faisal Akram (2-42) starred with the ball before contrasting half centuries by Fakhar Zaman (55 off 45) and Mohammad Rizwan (61 not out off 92) guided Pakistan to the 212-run target with 32 balls remaining.

It was Pakistan's second successive ODI series triumph after their 2-1 win over South Africa earlier this month, with focus now shifting to the T20I tri-series featuring the hosts alongside Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

After Pakistan won the toss and opted to field, Haris, Wasim and Faisal struck at regular intervals through the innings, preventing Sri Lanka from building momentum at any stage.

A flurry of crisp strokes on a batting-friendly pitch by Sri Lankan openers Patthum Nissanka and Kamil Mishara gave the visitors a flying start before the in-form Haris forced Nissanka to play one onto his stumps. Sri Lanka nevertheless reached 57-1 by the end of the first 10 overs.

First-drop Kusal Mendis carried the momentum, flicking two full deliveries by Haris for boundaries in the 11th over. But Sri Lanka suffered another setback when Mishara poked at an outswinger by Wasim to get caught behind in the next over.

The dismissal slowed down the run-rate, with Kusal and Sadeera Samarawickrama taking Sri Lanka to 99-2 by the 20th over, which featured a successful DRS review saving Samarawickrama after an lbw decision by spinner Faisal.

With the boundary drought stretching — 47 balls to be precise — pressure mounted on the batters, culminating in another breakthrough for Pakistan and another for Wasim, who seamed one in to castle Kusal through the gate as the Islanders slipped to 117-3 at the halfway mark.

Faisal, who had kept things tight in his five overs, returned to remove Kamindu Mendis off his own bowling in a soft dismissal, pushing Sri Lanka deeper into trouble. Janith Liyanage followed next, chopping Faheem Ashraf's medium pace onto his stumps.

Faisal then produced a superb delivery in the 36th over, spinning one back sharply into the right-handed Samarawickrama to bowl him for 48. Maheesh Theekshana fell soon after to a searing yorker by Pakistan captain Shaheen Shah Afridi, with DRS upholding the lbw call. Another pinpoint yorker saw Wasim uproot Jefferey Vandersay's middle stump.

After Pavan Rathnayake threatened a late rally by launching Haris over long-off for six, his partner Pramod Madushan succumbed to a fierce bouncer, the ball flying off his gloves into the hands of wicket-keeper Haseebullah Khan.

Rathnayake was the last to fall, courtesy of a sharp throw by substitute Saim Ayub that found him short of his crease.

Pakistan's start with the bat proved tricky as opener Haseebullah perished attempting to clear the infield off Maheesh Theekshana but ended up holing out to Eshan Malinga at mid-on in the fourth over.

Fakhar responded to the early wicket with a firm whip through midwicket off Pramod Madushan for his second boundary, before Babar Azam punched Theekshana for two crisp drives through the off side in the next over.

Fakhar heaved Theekshana over his head for another four as Pakistan reached 46-1 by the end of 10 overs.

Fakhar and Babar raised their fifty stand in the 12th over, the latter caressing Madushan for a cover boundary before the former punished a wide delivery by medium-pacer Dunith Liyanage for four.

Fakhar notched his 19th ODI half-century by smacking Jeffery Vandersay through the on side in the 14th over. But he departed soon after — for 55 off 45 — finding a diving Kamindu Mendis at deep midwicket off Vandersay.

Just as Pakistan crossed 100 in the 20th over, Vandersay delivered a brilliant googly to deceive Babar (34 off 52) and shatter his stumps.

The leg-spinner struck again in the 25th over, trapping Salman Ali Agha lbw, the third umpire overturning the on-field decision as Sri Lanka sensed an opening at the halfway stage.

Rizwan, at the other end, responded with an exquisite cover drive off Malinga in the following over.

But as the pitch's sluggishness increasingly came into play, Rizwan and incoming Hussain Talat opted for caution, relying on hard running rather than stroke-play.

The next boundary arrived after more than 12 overs when Rizwan placed a full toss by Malinga behind square with ease. The former Pakistan captain brought up his second successive fifty off 84 balls in the 42nd over.

He was dropped on 55 in the 44th over, but Pakistan needed only nine more runs by then.

Four came off a straight drive by Rizwan against Madushan before Hussain (42 off 57) struck another boundary to seal the match.

**Scoreboard**

**SRI LANKA:**
P. Nissanka b Haris ... 24
K. Mishara c Haseebullah b Wasim ... 29
K. Mendis b Wasim ... 34
S. Samarawickrama b Faisal ... 48
K.D. Mendis c&b Faisal ... 10
J. Liyanage b Faheem ... 4
P. Rathnayake run out ... 32
M. Theekshana lbw b Shaheen ... 7
J. Vandersay b Wasim ... 4
P. Madushan c Haseebullah b Haris ... 7
E. Malinga not out ... 0
**EXTRAS** (B-2, LB-3, NB-1, W-6) ... 12
**TOTAL** (all out, 45.2 overs) 211
**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-55 (Nissanka), 2-69 (Mishara), 3-112 (K. Mendis), 4-123 (K.D. Mendis), 5-143 (Liyanage), 6-166 (Samarawickrama), 7-180 (Theekshana), 8-193 (Vandersay), 9-210 (Madushan)
**BOWLING:** Shaheen 7.2-1-36-1 (2w), Faheem 9-0-43-1 (1w, 1nb), Haris 9-1-38-2, Wasim 10-0-47-3 (2w), Faisal 10-0-42-2 (1w)
**PAKISTAN:**
Fakhar Zaman c K. D. Mendis b Vandersay ... 55
Haseebullah Khan c Malinga b Theekshana ... 0
Babar Azam b Vandersay ... 34
Mohammad Rizwan not out ... 61
Salman Ali Agha lbw b Vandersay ... 6
Hussain Talat not out ... 42
**EXTRAS** (B-5, LB-2, NB-1, W-9) ... 17
**TOTAL** (for four wickets, 44.4 overs) 215
**DID NOT BAT:** Faheem Ashraf, Mohammad Wasim, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, Faisal Akram
**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-8 (Haseebullah), 2-82 (Fakhar), 3-101 (Babar), 4-115 (Salman)
**BOWLING:** Madushan 10-0-56-0 (4w), Theekshana 9.4-1-37-1 (1w), Malinga 8-0-44-0 (2w, 1nb), Liyanage 5-1-22-0 (2w), Vandersay 10-0-42-3, K.D. Mendis 2-0-7-0
**RESULT:** Pakistan won by six wickets.
**PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH:** Mohammad Wasim
**SERIES:** Pakistan won the three-match series 3-0.
**PLAYER-OF-THE-SERIES:** Haris Rauf

# Mitchell ton steers NZ to seven-run victory in first West Indies ODI

CHRISTCHURCH: A fighting Daryl Mitchell century set up a tense seven-run win for New Zealand over West Indies in the first one-day international in Christchurch on Sunday.

A hobbling Mitchell struck 119 as the home side posted 269-7. The West Indies accelerated late in their chase to reach 262-6 but it was in vain.

Sherfane Rutherford scored 55 and Justin Greaves an unbeaten 38 off 24 balls in the middle order but their clean hitting wasn't enough.

West Indies needed 20 off the final over by seamer Jacob Duffy, and a six from Romario Shepherd (26 not out) left nine needed from the last two balls.

Duffy held his nerve, putting the home side ahead in the three-match series heading into game two in Napier on Wednesday.

Mitchell's innings stood out on a testing pitch as he reached a seventh ODI century despite batting a groin injury.

Rachin Ravindra and Will Young fell to successive deliveries from Matthew Forde, bringing 34-year-old Mitchell — rated the world's third best ODI batsman — to the crease with New Zealand on 24-2.

Opener Devon Conway scored 49 but the other batsmen struggled for timing apart from Mitchell, who struck many of his 12 fours and two sixes on the leg side.

Mitchell's injury prevented him from fielding but he unleashed a powerful pull off seamer Jayden Seales to raise his century in the 46th over. He fell to Seales, caught in the deep in the final over.

He said his 118-ball knock felt like hard work on a surface offering inconsistent bounce.

"There wasn't a fluent way to go about your innings. You kind of had to find ways to put pressure on them and absorb pressure at other times," said Mitchell, who was unsure about his fitness for the rest of the series.

"There's a little bit of a niggle there, so we'll wake up in the morning and see how that feels." Seales was the most successful West Indies bowler, taking 3-41.

West Indies began their response cautiously, with opener Alick Athanaze (29) and Keacy Carty (32) taking 18 overs to compile their second-wicket partnership of 60.

Captain Shai Hope, whose 37 gave the innings some impetus, said he wanted more from his specialist batsmen.

"If I was to be very critical, the batters need to step up a bit more, especially at the top, myself included, I got out at a very crucial time there," he said. "A few of us need to go a bit bigger." Kyle Jamieson was the best of New Zealand's bowlers, taking 3-52.—AFP

NEW Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell pulls during the first One-day International against West Indies at Hagley Oval on Sunday.—AFP

**Scoreboard**

**NEW ZEALAND:**
D. Conway c Hope b Greaves ... 49
R. Ravindra c Hope b Forde ... 4
W. Young c Hope b Forde ... 0
D. Mitchell c Rutherford b Seales ... 119
T. Latham c Hope b Seales ... 18
M. Bracewell c Springer b Chase ... 35
M. Santner c Forde b Seales ... 11
Z. Foulkes not out ... 22
K. Jamieson not out ... 1
**EXTRAS** (NB-1, W-9) ... 10
**TOTAL** (for seven wickets, 50 overs) ... 269
**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-24 (Ravindra), 2-24 (Young), 3-91 (Conway), 4-123 (Latham), 5-192 (Bracewell), 6-220 (Santner), 7-263 (Mitchell)
**DID NOT BAT:** M. Henry, J. Duffy
**BOWLING:** Forde 10-1-55-2 (5w), Seales 9-1-41-3 (2w), Shepherd 4-0-23-0 (1nb), Greaves 8-0-54-1 (1w), Springer 9-0-59-0 (1w), Chase 10-0-37-1

**WEST INDIES:**
J. Campbell c Latham b Jamieson ... 4
A. Athanaze c Young b Santner ... 29
K. Carty c Young b Jamieson ... 32
S. Hope c Ravindra b Foulkes ... 37
S. Rutherford c Conway b Jamieson ... 55
R. Chase c Foulkes b Henry ... 16
J. Greaves not out ... 38
R. Shepherd not out ... 26
**EXTRAS** (B-4, LB-7, W-14) ... 25
**TOTAL** (for six wickets, 50 overs) ... 262
**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-10 (Campbell), 2-70 (Athanaze), 3-87 (Carty), 4-138 (Hope), 5-169 (Chase), 6-209 (Rutherford)
**DID NOT BAT:** M. Forde, Springer, J. Seales
**BOWLING:** Jamieson 10-1-52-3 (5w), Henry 10-1-46-1 (3w), Foulkes 8-0-30-1 (1w), Duffy 9-2-48-0 (5w), Santner 10-1-46-1, Bracewell 3-0-29-0
**RESULT:** New Zealand won by seven wickets.
**PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH:** Daryl Mitchell

# Maaz dazzles as Shaheens crush India 'A' in Rising Stars Asia Cup

DOHA: Maaz Sadaqat's blazing unbeaten 79 off 47 balls powered Pakistan Shaheens to a commanding eight-wicket victory over India 'A' in their Rising Stars Asia Cup Group 'B' clash on Saturday, chasing down 137 with 40 balls to spare.

The 19-year-old all-rounder, who also claimed two wickets earlier, single-handedly dismantled India's bowling after a dropped catch, ensuring Shaheens maintained their unbeaten run in the tournament.

Electing to bowl first at the West End Park, Pakistan's disciplined attack triggered a spectacular Indian collapse, bundling out the opposition for 136 in 19 overs after a promising start.

Teenage sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi, 14, lit up the innings with a fiery 45 off 28 balls (five fours and three sixes), smashing boundaries at will against Ubaid Shah and Shahid Aziz. Partnering with Naman Dhir (35 off 20, six fours and a six), Suryavanshi added 49 for the second wicket, propelling India to 81-2 by the ninth over.

But Sufiyan Muqeem's left-arm wrist spin turned the tide, dismissing Suryavanshi caught at long-on in a contentious decision upheld after multiple replays.

Captain Jitesh Sharma's scratchy five precipitated a middle-order meltdown; India lost eight wickets for just 35 runs in the final 10 overs.

PAKISTAN Shaheens batter Maaz Sadaqat plays a shot during the Rising Stars Asia Cup match against India 'A' at the West End Park on Sunday.—Courtesy ACC

Maaz (2-12) and Saad Masood (2-31) choked the scoring with clever variations, while Shahid (3-24) mopped up the tail with yorkers and slower balls. Harsh Dubey's late 19 off 15 offered brief resistance, but India's total — the tournament's lowest a day after their 297 against UAE — proved inadequate.

Shaheen's chase began aggressively, Maaz and Mohammad Naeem (14 off 10) racing to 51-0 in five overs thanks to Gurjapneet Singh's wayward spell (. Yash Thakur provided a breakthrough, with Dhir's diving catch at mid-off, but Maaz exploded; a half-century off 31 balls included audacious sixes off Dhir's off-spin and Suyash Sharma.

Dropped on 56 by Suryavanshi at point, Maaz unleashed fury, sealing victory with Mohammad Faiq (16 not out off 14) via a pull for six in the 14th over.

India's fielding woes — missed chances and misfields — compounded bowling errors, as Pakistan's required run rate dipped below four.

Scores in brief:

INDIA 'A' 136 in 19 overs (V. Suryavanshi 45, N. Dhir 35; Shahid Aziz 3-24, Saad Masood 2-31); PAKISTAN SHAHEENS 137-2 in 13.2 overs (Maaz Sadaqat 79 not out, Mohammad Faiq 16 not out).—Agencies

# India and Pakistan blind women show spirit of cricket with handshakes

KATUNAYAKE: Blind women from India and Pakistan brushed aside political tensions on Sunday, shaking hands in neutral Sri Lanka at a cricket tournament for the visually impaired.

At what organisers describe as the world's first blind women's T20 tournament, players from the two South Asian neighbours showed they had sporting vision even if they lacked sight — unlike their regular national teams.

Tensions off and on the field have been high since a deadly military clash between the nuclear-armed neighbours in May.

India's men refused to shake hands with their Pakistani opponents at the Asia Cup in September, since when neither side has shown signs of making up.

That animosity spread to the women's sides who declined any greeting at the recent ODI World Cup and also to Sunday's men's Rising Stars Asia Cup tie in Doha.

India's blind players were expected to mirror the conduct of their sighted teams when there was no handshake after the toss, but at the end of the match both sides warmly greeted each other.

The two sides, who travelled to the venue together in the same bus, not only shook hands but also exchanged generous compliments.

India won by eight wickets in just 10.2 overs after Pakistan were restricted to 135 for eight in their 20 overs at the Free Trade Zone grounds in Katunayake, 30 kilometres (18 miles) north of Colombo.

Pakistan skipper Nimra Rafique congratulated India on their comprehensive victory, while her Indian counterpart T. C. Deepika said Pakistan had played well.

The teams applauded one another loudly but neither set of players was permitted to talk to the press.

**BIGGEST OPPORTUNITY**

There were hardly any spectators but the match was shown live on Sri Lanka's national television, Rupavahini. Blind Sri Lankan officials hosting the tournament "watched" the match on YouTube by listening to the commentary.

Indian team manager Shika Shetty told AFP before the match that the tournament was opening up opportunities for more women.

"This is the first-ever World Cup for blind women... I think this is one of the biggest opportunities for our entire visually impaired girls," said Shetty, who is not blind. "Maybe many girls with disabilities will come out from their villages.

"Maybe they will come for studies, maybe they will come for the sport. So it is helpful for other girls too."

Blind cricket relies on a sharp ear, as players must detect a white plastic ball — the size of a tennis ball — filled with ball bearings that rattle as it moves.

Pakistan coach Tahir Mehmood Butt, also speaking before the game, said the launch of women's blind cricket had created new opportunities for young players in Pakistan.

"For the totally blind, if they have good hearing, they can become good cricketers," Tahir told AFP.

Each team must field at least four completely blind players, three who can see up to two metres, and four partially sighted players able to see up to about six metres.

Totally blind batters may have a partially sighted runner. Bowling is underarm, unlike in the traditional game.

Four other nations — Australia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the US — are competing in the tournament which began in India and moved to Sri Lanka for the final stages. The final is scheduled for next Sunday in Colombo.—AFP